

33. (Newly Added) A customer's order processing apparatus comprising:
storing means for storing setting data for every article;
inputting means for inputting ordered articles and storing order data of said
ordered articles;
predicting means for predicting quantities of said articles to be prepared in
response to a command signal generated in accordance with said stored order data
inputted for a given time period; and
display means for displaying said quantities for every said articles in accordance
with said setting data in response to said command signal.

Remarks

The following is a response to the Office Action dated October 23, 2001.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the at issue claims of pending claims 1-31 have been amended with specific attention paid to the indefiniteness noted by the examiner. Having done so, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-31 are now devoid of any of the noted indefiniteness problems.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-19, 22-23 and 26-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Savage U.S. patent 6,026,372. Moreover, claims 5-6, 9-10, 22-21 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Savage.

As amended, independent claims 1, 16 and 31 each now feature the displaying of the image as shown for example in Fig. 3 of the instant application when it is not a peak time period, and the image of Fig. 4 when it is a peak time period. Savage does not disclosure such separate displays. In other words, Savage does not have the capability of displaying one image at a peak time and another image at a non-peak time.

New claims 32 and 33 each recite that the "command signal" for initiating the prediction of the quantity of articles to be prepared is a command signal, generated for

example by CPU 11 in item 53, that is based on the data on the sold articles for a given time period, such as for example the last 30 minutes as mentioned on page 17, lines 9-12 of the disclosure. In contrast, in the Savage system, a manual input by the cook is required for commencement. See column 7, lines 23-27. Moreover, as each food item is processed, a finished signal also needs to be entered by the cook. See column 4, lines 56-59. By comparison, as shown in Fig. 4 of the instant invention, a cook is presented with a view of the predicted number of each particular food item that needs to be cooked within a given time, be it every five minutes or every ten minutes, etc. but only during the peak time period.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant invention is patentable over the prior art.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION TO SHOW MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Attachment Specification Portions Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121(b)(1)(iii)

Please amend page 3, line 10 to page 4, line 22 as follows:

Generally, in the electronic cash register 231, the names of articles are set on the keyboard of the electronic cash register 231 as shown in Fig. 24, so that ordering processing can be performed only by depressing the keys in accordance with the orders by a customer. For example, when an operator receives orders of a hamburger, a cheeseburger, a medium size of fried potato, [an] and a cola, as shown in Fig. 25, the operator successively depresses the article keys 241 to input article data of a hamburger, a cheeseburger, a medium size package of fried potato, a cola in steps s1 to s3, and operates the subtotal key 243 in step s4, and the total key 244 in step s5, as the operator is hearing the orders by the [customer] customer. If the ordering has finished, the operator depresses the subtotal key 243. Then, a total amount is displayed and the operator announces the total amount. Then, the operator receives the payment and depresses the total key 244 for accounting processing. Then, the counting processing has finished and a receipt is provided to the customer.

The kitchen video controller 233 operates the 5 display monitor 234 at the kitchen to display sets of orders in order of time to cooks, wherein, as shown in Fig. 27, the first set of order 271 is displayed at the leftmost [mostleft] of the screen of the display monitor 234, the second set of order 272 is displayed on the right of the first order 271, and the last set of order 273 is display on the right of the second set of order 272. The number "#0103" represents the order number. For example, "#0103" represents the third set of orders in the electronic cash register 231 having the machine number one. If the first set of orders 271 are received as shown in Fig. 25, the display monitor 234 successively displays two "hamburgers", two "cheeseburgers", one "L size package of fried potato", and three [caps] cups of "tea". Cooks in the kitchen prepare the corresponding articles with monitoring the display monitor 234. When cooking has

finished, the cook erases the display image of the corresponding set of orders on the display monitor 234.

Attachment Claims Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

Please amend 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 31, 32 and 33 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of processing customer's orders comprising the steps of:
 - (a) storing setting data for every article;
 - (b) inputting ordered articles and storing order data of said ordered articles;
 - (c) predicting quantities of said articles to be prepared in accordance with said stored order data in response to a command signal; [and]
 - (d) displaying said quantities [every said articles] of said every article to be prepared at a given time period in accordance with said setting data in response to said command signal at a peak time; and
 - (e) displaying respective sets of input ordered articles at non-peak times.
2. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step (a) further comprises the step of inputting said setting data for every to be stored article [so as to be stored].
3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - [(e)] (f) storing peak time zone data;
 - [(f)] (g) detecting the present time; and
 - [(g)] (h) judging whether the present time is within a peak time zone in accordance with said stored peak time zone data to generate said command signal.
7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the steps of:
 - storing a predetermined number;
 - detecting the number of customers from said order data; and

predicting said peak time zone in accordance with the predetermined number and the detected number of customers in accordance with said predicted peak time zone to generate said peak time zone data so as to be stored in step [(e)] (f).

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein in said step [(e)] (f), weekday peak time zone data and holiday peak time zone data [is] are stored as said peak time zone data, said method further comprising the steps of:

detecting the present date; and

judging whether the present date is a weekday or a holiday, wherein in step [(g)] (h), said command signal is generated in accordance with said stored weekday peak time zone data, said stored holiday peak time zone, said present time, and the present date.

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said step [(e)] (f) further [comprising] comprises the step of inputting said weekday peak time zone data and holiday peak time zone data so as to be stored.

16. (Amended) A customer's order processing apparatus comprising:

storing means for storing setting data for every article;

inputting means for inputting ordered articles and storing order data of said ordered articles;

predicting means for predicting quantities of said articles to be prepared in accordance with said stored order data in response to a command signal; and

display means for displaying said quantities [every] for said every article[s] to be prepared at a given time period in accordance with said setting data in response to said command signal at a peak time, and for displaying respective sets of input ordered articles at non-peak times.

31. (Amended) A method of processing customer's orders comprising the steps of:

(a) inputting and storing data of articles in accordance with orders by customers;

(b) predicting quantities of said ordered articles to be prepared in accordance with said stored data of articles in response to a command signal; [and]

(c) displaying said quantities for every said articles to be prepared at a given time period in accordance with said setting data in response to said command signal; and

(d) displaying respective sets of input ordered articles at time periods other than said given time period.